

Case 3634

OMALIIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 (Insecta, Archaeorthoptera) and XENOPTERIDAE Pinto, 1986 (Insecta, Megasecoptera): proposed emendation to OMALIAIDAE and XENOPTERAIDAE respectively to remove homonymy with OMALIINAE MacLeay, 1825 (Insecta, Coleoptera) and XENOPTERIDAE Riek, 1955 (Insecta, Orthoptera)

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 29 and 55.3 of the Code, is to remove the homonymy between the family-group names OMALIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 (Insecta, Archaeorthoptera) and OMALIDAE MacLeay, 1825 (Insecta, Coleoptera), which are homonyms due to the similarity of the names of their respective type genera *Omalia* Beneden & Coemans, 1867 and *Omalium* Gravenhorst, 1802, and between the family-group names XENOPTERIDAE Pinto, 1986 (Insecta, Megasecoptera) and XENOPTERIDAE Riek, 1955 (Insecta, Orthoptera), which are homonyms due to the similarity of the names of their respective type-genera *Xenoptera* Pinto, 1986 and *Xenopterum* Riek, 1955. It is proposed that the stem of the generic name *Omalia* be emended to *Omalia-* to give OMALIAIDAE, while leaving the beetle family name unaltered, and that the stem of the generic name *Xenoptera* be emended to *Xenoptera-* to give XENOPTERAIDAE, while leaving the orthopteran family name unaltered.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Insecta; Protorthoptera; Coleoptera; Archaeorthoptera; Megasecoptera; Orthoptera; OMALIIDAE; XENOPTERIDAE; insects; Carboniferous.

1. During a search to update the fossil record of insect families since Ross & Jarzembowski (1993), for a PhD by Nicholson (2012), two junior homonymous family names were encountered.

2. The family OMALIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 (p. 13) was erected for the type genus *Omalia* Beneden & Coemans, 1867 (p. 392), (Insecta, Protorthoptera), the stem being *Omali-*. However, this family name is a junior homonym of OMALIDAE MacLeay, 1825 (p. 49) (Insecta, Coleoptera), and is now considered to be a subfamily of STAPHYLINIDAE (see Bouchard et al., 2011, p. 175), spelling corrected to OMALIINAE. Although MacLeay (1825) does not mention a type genus, this is given as *Omalium* Gravenhorst, 1802 (p. 111) in Newton & Thayer (1992, p. 57) and Herman (2001, p. 210), the stem is therefore *Omali-*. The spelling OMALIDAE MacLeay, 1825 was at some stage corrected to OMALIIDAE and this spelling has been in use since at least 1893 (see Lewis, 1893). OMALIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 was corrected to OMALIIDAE by Handlirsch (1919, p. 552), and the emended spelling has been used ever since, e.g. Carpenter (1992, p. 121, authorship incorrectly attributed to Handlirsch, 1906 in 1906–08). Brauckmann & Hahn (1980, p. 303) considered OMALIIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 to be a nomen nudum, however the original use is clearly accompanied by the type genus and species names with their primary reference and the locality and a detailed description (with a figure) of the type specimen. This satisfies Articles 11 & 12 of the Code that the name is available. Kukalová-Peck & Brauckmann (1992, p. 2454) gave the correct authorship (OMALIIDAE Handlirsch, 1904) though they synonymised the family with GERARIDAE Scudder, 1885. However, this synonymy was not followed by Béthoux & Nel (2002, 2005), who regarded OMALIIDAE Handlirsch, 1904 as unplaced in the superorder Archaeorthoptera. In order to remove the homonymy, following the Principle of Priority and because the OMALIINAE MacLeay is highly diverse with 1458 included species (according to Herman, 2001, p. 209), it is proposed that the stem of the generic name *Omalia*, currently *Omali-* be emended to *Omalia-* giving OMALIAIDAE.

3. The family XENOPTERIDAE Pinto, 1986 (p. 25) was erected for the type genus *Xenoptera* Pinto, 1986 (Insecta, Megasecoptera), the stem being *Xenopter-*. However this family name is a junior homonym of XENOPTERIDAE Riek, 1955 (p. 687) based on the type genus *Xenopterum* Riek, 1955 (Insecta, Orthoptera), the stem being *Xenopter-*. The homonymy was noted by Ross & Jarzemowski (1993, p. 369) but has not been subsequently dealt with. Sharov (1968, p. 41) synonymised XENOPTERIDAE Riek, 1955 with TRIASSOMANTEIDAE Tillyard, 1922 however Gorokhov (1989, 2005) took the family out of synonymy and added more species. In order to remove the homonymy, following the Principle of Priority and because XENOPTERIDAE Riek is more diverse with 17 included species (see Gorokhov, 2005, p. 181), it is proposed that the stem of the generic name *Xenoptera*, currently *Xenopter-* be emended to *Xenoptera-* to give XENOPTERAIDAE.

4. There is also another family-group homonym – XENOPTERINAE Gill, 1878 (p. 792) (a junior synonym of TETRAODONTINAE Bonaparte, 1832 (p. 163) and a senior synonym of CHORNERHINIDAE Gill, 1884 (p. 423)). This name is based on *Xenopterus* Troschel 1856 (p. 88), which is an unjustified emendation of *Xenoptere* Bibron in Duméril, 1855 (p. 281), if the Commission accepts removal of accents as correct latinisation of the gallic name *Xénoptère* nec *Xenopterus* as proposed by Kottelat (2001). *Xenoptere* is a junior synonym of *Chonherhinos* Bleeker, 1854 (p. 259) (see Kottelat, 1999). It is not necessary to request a solution in this application because the family-group name is in synonymy and is likely to be a nomen oblitum.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to rule that for the purposes of Article 29 of the Code:
 - (a) the stem of the generic name *Omalia* Beneden & Coemans, 1867 is *Omalia-*;
 - (b) the stem of the generic name *Xenoptera* Pinto, 1986 is *Xenoptera-*;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Omalia* Beneden & Coemans, 1867 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Omalia macroptera* Beneden & Coemans, 1867;
 - (b) *Omalium* Gravenhorst, 1802 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation *Staphylinus rivularis* Paykull, 1789;
 - (c) *Xenoptera* Pinto, 1986 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Xenoptera riojaensis* Pinto, 1986;
 - (d) *Xenopterum* Riek, 1955 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Xenopterum crosbyi* Riek, 1955;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *crosbyi* Riek, 1955, as published in the binomen *Xenopterum crosbyi*;
 - (b) *macroptera* Beneden & Coemans, 1867, as published in the binomen *Omalia macroptera*;
 - (c) *riojaensis* Pinto, 1986, as published in the binomen *Xenoptera riojaensis*;
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family Group Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) OMALIAIDAE Handlirsch, 1904, type genus *Omalia* Beneden & Coemans, 1867, spelling emended by ruling in (1)(a) above (Insecta, Archaeorthoptera);
 - (b) OMALIIDAE MacLeay, 1825, type genus *Omalium* Gravenhorst, 1802 (Insecta, Coleoptera);
 - (c) XENOPTERAIDAE Pinto, 1986, type genus *Xenoptera* Pinto, 1986, spelling emended by ruling in (1)(b) above (Insecta, Megasecoptera);
 - (d) XENOPTERIDAE Riek, 1955, type genus *Xenopterum*, Riek, 1955 (Insecta, Orthoptera);
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) OMALIDAE Handlirsch, 1904, spelling emended to OMALIAIDAE, as ruled in (1)(a) above (Insecta, Archaeorthoptera);
 - (b) XENOPTERIDAE Pinto, 1986, spelling emended to XENOPTERAIDAE by ruling in (1)(b) above (Insecta, Megasecoptera).

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